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American School  
of Oriental Research  
in Palestine

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MANAGING  
COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN SCHOOL  
FOR ORIENTAL STUDY AND RESEARCH IN  
PALESTINE

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*To the Council of the Archaeological Institute of America :*

GENTLEMEN, — During the past year, 1905–06, the American School in Palestine has most fortunately secured temporary quarters in Jerusalem which are a great improvement on the former single room in the Grand Hôtel. This change has been effected through the active efforts of Professor B. W. Bacon, the annual Director for 1905–06.

Professor David G. Lyon of Harvard University has been chosen Director in the field for 1906–07 and will shortly assume the responsibilities of his position. Mr. K. G. Tourian, a graduate student in Harvard University, who won the Thayer Fellowship for 1906–07, has already gone to Jerusalem to pursue his studies there under the direction of the American School. For the coming year, already one student, Mr. W. H. Wood, a graduate of the Yale Divinity School, has been enrolled. It is hoped that several others will soon avail themselves of the opportunities for field work during the approaching season.

A copy of the Director's report is appended.

The catalogue of the School's library which was prepared by Professor Nathaniel Schmidt and the students of the year of his directorship is now in press.

I desire to call attention to the fact that an unusually favorable opportunity presents itself just now for the School to

purchase property in Jerusalem and thus to secure a permanent home, which would place our institution on a par with the other archaeological schools in Palestine. The need for liberal subscriptions towards this object is imperative, if the American School is to have more than a transitory existence. Particulars as to the price of land in Jerusalem are given by Professor Bacon in his report. It is sufficient to state here that real estate purchased at the present time would certainly increase in value in the near future, and that the longer the School is compelled to wait, the higher the price must be for its permanent home.

For the MANAGING COMMITTEE,

J. DYNELEY PRINCE, *Chairman*.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY,

*September 1, 1906.*

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

1905-1906

*To the Managing Committee of the American School for Oriental Study and Research in Palestine :*

GENTLEMEN, — I have the honor to submit the following report of the work of the School during the academic year 1905-06.

Mr. George Sverdrup, the Thayer Fellow for the year, having sailed for Beirut early in June, I left Trieste, August 13, to join him there, stopping over the week, August 21-28, at Smyrna, where I narrowly failed to meet my predecessor, Professor Schmidt, on his homeward journey. However I visited the principal scenes of St. Paul's activity in "Asia," exploring the ruins of Laodicea and Hierapolis in the upper Lycus valley, and the important Austrian excavations under Professor Heberdey at Ephesus.

At Beirut, where I arrived August 31, spending an afternoon *en route* at Tripoli, I experienced the same cordial reception as my predecessors from President Bliss and the faculty of the Syrian Protestant College, though the tropical heat of the littoral at this season compels a general retirement to the villages scattered on the slopes of Lebanon. Here, at Behamdoun, two hours by rail from Beirut, I found Mr. Sverdrup engaged in the study of Arabic under a native teacher. His stay, however, had been broken by one of the best of the many opportunities for archaeological travel open to members of the Syrian Protestant College in vacation. Under conduct of Professor Stewart Crawford, he participated in a two-weeks trip to Palmyra, Ba'albek, and Damascus, adding greatly to his archaeological knowledge and interest.

Pending the arrival of Mr. George H. Driver, Hooker Fellow of the Yale Divinity School, who had applied for admission to

the School of Oriental Studies, and was expected at Beirut in September, various expeditions were arranged, with headquarters at Jebeil (Byblus) for the north Phoenician coast, and Sidon for the southern; also a visit (Mr. Sverdrup's second) to Damascus and Ba'albek, and a journey up the Nahr Ibrahim, from its mouth to the source at 'Afka. Minor expeditions were made from Beirut to Beit Meri (Brummana), to Nahr el-Kelb, and to other points of archaeological interest.

At Jebeil, where we experienced great kindness from Miss Caroline Holmes, missionary of the Presbyterian Board, the material fruits of our stay consisted of a number of inscriptions copied from Batroun southward, published for the most part by Renan in the *Mission en Phénicie*; also a green steatite scarab of Phoenician origin, presenting an intaglio of the god Elyun (?) corresponding to the description by Philo of Byblus, a form not previously known. The field is one which has yielded for generations some of the richest plunder of the native dealer, and is still being secretly exploited, as new tombs are found. The finely sculptured temple of the Greek period, covered to a depth of some 20 feet below the surface, now serves the owner of the land as a quarry for building stone. He was entirely willing to direct his excavations toward any portion of the building we should indicate (of course in the hope of striking treasure), but we knew it was hopeless to attempt to stop the cracking up of marble cornice and capitals, or the growing junk-heap of broken statuary. The only hope for archaeology in face of such conditions is in the presence of the intelligent resident, usually the missionary, who is at once the trusted friend of the native and in active sympathy with the archaeologist and historian. Such a sentinel may not, indeed, be able to arrest the process of spoliation and the scattering of valuable antiquities by all the channels of illicit trade, but armed with pen and camera, if not with wax and squeeze-paper as well, he can keep record of the most important finds.

October 2-7 was spent in company with Mr. Sverdrup on an expedition, with tent and two muleteers, to the source of the

Adonis at 'Afḡa, and back to Beirut via the Nahr el-Kelb. Besides the noble temple at 'Afḡa, the valley contains many traces of Greek civilization, including the platform of a temple at El-Frat, the enclosure measuring  $45 \times 22$  yards, a rock-hewn altar on the west side of a little ravine east of the village, rock-cuttings for the Roman road near the bridge at Jineh, besides the remains noted by Renan in his *Phénicie*. The inscription reported to Renan as existing at Kwäly we were unable to discover.

Through the hospitality of Rev. W. K. Eddy and Dr. Samuel Jesup, of the American Presbyterian Mission, we were able to spend the following week in Sidon to our great advantage. Makridi Bey's excavations at the temple of Eshmun had laid bare further features of the structure, our only example in Syria of pure Phoenician architecture, and this with the harbor-works and necropolis gave opportunity for object-lessons. Still more important archaeological exploration could here be carried on, thanks to the kindness of the American missionaries, in continuation of the work of my predecessors, again illustrating the importance of coöperation between the School and those who have the full confidence of the natives.

Operations at Sidon were interrupted by news of the arrival of Mr. Driver, who reported having conditionally arranged to join an expedition to the Cedars in company with Professor G. Frederick Wright of Oberlin, under conduct of Professor Day of Beirut. Under the circumstances, it seemed wiser to join with Mr. Driver in this expedition, rather than withdraw him from it. Mr. Sverdrup, accordingly, was left to close up operations in Sidon, and I visited again the valleys of the Adonis and Lycus, this time including the temple at Ḳal'at el Fukra and the natural bridge, continuing to the valley of the Kadisha, and so by the Cedars, over the highest point of Lebanon to the remarkable lake and temple of Yemuneh, and so again to Ba'albek. From Ba'albek I returned to Beirut and Sidon, stopping for a day with Revs. Doolittle and William Jessup at Zahleh to visit the interesting temples at Ḳal'at Niha, while Mr. Driver continued his journey to Damascus.

At Sidon arrangements were made at once for a trip overland to Jerusalem in company with Mr. Eddy. Mr. Sverdrup, however, remained at Sidon, pending the consent of the Committee to his prosecuting his linguistic studies there in connection with the mission school. This horseback journey, without tents, via Şarafend, Tyre, 'Akka, to Haifa, whence we explored Carmel and the plain of Esdraelon as far as the southern extremity of the Sea of Galilee, and again by the more unfrequented routes through Samaria to Nablous, Beitin, Miḥmas, Jeba, 'Anata, and Jerusalem, proved of the greatest interest and value, bringing us into practical contact with native life, to say nothing of our study of archaeological remains, including both those so fully described in the Memoirs of the Fund, and the important excavations of Schumacher at Tell Mutesellim.

The quarters used since the beginning of the School in the Grand New Hotel, were occupied by us on November 18, and after the despatch of a Preliminary Report to the Secretary, the plan of operations for the winter was at once inaugurated. This consisted essentially of study in the excellent library of the School at a fixed hour each day, alternating with expeditions whenever weather conditions permitted. A principal expedition with tents and full camping outfit, to cover the whole extent of the country east and west of the Jordan, with especial reference to disputed New Testament sites, was planned for the earliest possible date after the cessation of the winter rains, Mr. Driver having determined to leave after Easter. For the winter season there remained such short trips as could be made from Jerusalem in the intervals of dry weather, and a two weeks' visit in January to Egypt and up the Nile. Study was conducted on a plan conformed to these conditions. Instead of attempting a comprehensive review of the history and archaeology of Syria, the special archaeological and topographical problems of the localities on our itinerary were discussed in informal lectures, in such a way as to make the most of our visit when the opportunity came. In this way, during the course of the rainy season, not only were the important sites of

Jerusalem and the immediate environs repeatedly visited, including Bethany, Bethlehem, Mar Saba, Bittir, Ḵulonieh, Abu-Ghosh, Nebi Samwil, Bireh, and Ramallah, with the various claimants to the distinction of the Emmaus and the "Aenon near to Salim" of the New Testament; but longer trips to the supremely important excavations of Macalister at Gezer; to the scenes of the Philistine conflicts in the days of Samson, including renewed visits to Bethel, Ai, Ophrah, Michmash, and vicinity; also to Hebron, and the Herodian palace and fortress at Jebel Feredis, the cave of Wadi H̱aretun and Teku'a; to Jericho and the Dead Sea; to Ramah, Gibeon, and the two Beth-horons, and to other sites of less importance. Christmas Day was naturally spent in witnessing the remarkable ritual of the Latins at Bethlehem.

Besides the frequent minor expeditions, occupying part or the whole of nearly every pleasant day, two principal matters of business occupied a large part of the months of December and January. The first and more pressing was the securing of independent quarters for the School. The emphasis laid upon this by the Committee in their written communications, was amply justified by actual experience of the situation, which has been described by my predecessors. On the other hand, the emphatic and positive assurances of Consul Merrill that the property would be unsafe and housekeeping impracticable without European care-takers in constant residence, could not be disregarded. Leases in Jerusalem are obtainable only from Moharram 1, which, in 1906, fell on February 28. The canvass of all available sites, whether for rent or purchase, had, therefore, to begin at once. It was finally concluded by the signing of a lease for a small but well-built house in the best situation, close to the German Institute, opposite the British Consulate, and separated only by a large vacant lot from the new German hospital. A stipulation was also made of decided importance, in view of the high rent for the hotel quarters. This secured our occupation of the premises from January 25, thus giving us six weeks' occupancy rent free. At



present the library occupies a large, well-lighted room on the ground floor, leaving two large and two small sleeping-rooms, parlor, dining-room, and kitchen, besides cellars and outhouses. A suitable inscription over the front door designates it as the "American Institute of Archaeology."

Arrangements had no sooner been completed for the removal of the library, after favorable adjustment of the unexpired contract with the Grand New Hotel, and the engagement of Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Smith of Jerusalem as permanent caretakers, than I took passage for Egypt, having agreed to meet my family in Alexandria. Mr. Driver was unable to make the trip to Egypt at this time, and Mr. Sverdrup, who in the meantime had been notified by the Committee that continuance in the Fellowship would require his relinquishing his engagements in Sidon, arrived too late to join me. Consequently I was left to make the expedition from Cairo up the Nile to the famous tombs and temples of Luxor, Karnak, Thebes, and Dendera alone.

I returned to Jerusalem with my family via Port Said and Jaffa January 24, to take up at once the task of transferring the library and collections to the new quarters and of furnishing the new house.

In this work I had the advantage of my wife's taste and experience, so that by March 1 the necessary repairs, the furnishing, provisioning, and all other requirements for reasonably comfortable housekeeping had been attended to, and preparations could be made for our principal expedition. For the conduct of this I had counted on the experienced aid of Dr. Masterman of the British Medical Mission in Jerusalem, but was compelled at the last moment to undertake it alone, with slight experience and very inadequate knowledge of the language.

The exceptionally late rains and storms of March and April, 1906, were a serious obstacle to the success of this long-planned tour, necessitating halts of several days in the aggregate at Kaisarieh, Tibnin, Arnun (near Belfort), and Banias, where we suffered the loss of a mule by drowning, after a similar loss by theft at Tiberias. The paralyzing effects of eight days' con-

secutive rain on a party travelling with tents over a country without roads, bridges, or even shelter from the storm, where plains become impassable morasses and even dry wadies dangerous torrents, seem to warrant a protest against the usual attempt to conduct tenting expeditions while the country is green and beautiful from the moisture of spring, but before the dry season is definitely established. The mere discomfort of May siroccos is trifling in comparison.

The itinerary carried out in face of these obstacles took first the route of St. Paul from Jerusalem viâ Antipatris (presumably Ras el-'Ain) to Caesarea, the actual Roman road being still traceable from the vicinity of Jifna, where it leaves the main Jerusalem-Nablous road, almost to Ras el-'Ain itself. Our camp for the first night was fixed at Umm Şuffa, on the line of this road, a village whose situation as well as name had suggested in our study of the itinerary of Saul (1 Sam. i, 1, ix. 5) the possibility of identification with the home of Samuel. Thence through valleys notable for superb rock-cuttings, tombs, and columbaria of the Roman period down to Mejdél, Ras el-'Ain, and Kefr Saba, the rival claimants to the fame of Antipatris, and so northward over the plain via Jiljiliyeh, Kilkiliyeh, and Kakun to Kaşariyeh, surrounded by its miles of trackless swamp.

At Kaşariyeh examination of the ruins, with copying and photographing inscriptions and antiquities, occupied all the time we had to give before pushing on to Lejjun for a renewed visit to Tell Mutesellim and the plain of Esdraelon. This time our route (except for tents and baggage despatched direct) took us past Tell Ta'annuk to Zer'in, Ain Jalud, Sulêm, and Nain, whence we reached our tents again at Nazareth. Thence the baggage train went once more direct to Tiberias and our cavalcade visited in turn Kefr Kenna, Mt. Tabor, Han et-Tujjar, and the Kurn Hattin with their interesting cyclopean enceinte.

From Tiberias as a base the Lake and Plain of Gennesaret were explored on horseback and by boat, as thoroughly as the unfavorable weather conditions would permit, Dr. Torrance of

Tiberias lending us his excellent boat. Thence we went to Şafed and the ruined synagogues of upper Galilee, to compare their remains with those of Tell Ḥum and Kerazeh, and so on to the great Crusaders' castles of Tibnin and Ka'at es-Shukif, and back, after an exciting struggle with floods in the Merj 'Ayun, to Tell el-Kadi and Banias.

The two days' halt at Banias, imperatively decreed by our half-drowned condition and the still intermittent rains, were turned to account in exploring the well-known Greek remains at Banias and the prodigious Crusaders' castle of Şubeibeh, while the Director personally returned to the Jisr el-Ghajar to take a squeeze of the Greek inscription of thirteen lines we were so fortunate as to discover beside the road only some five minutes west of the bridge, between it and Abil. In the driving rain and hail of a furious tempest the preceding day no more was possible than a copy of the exceedingly faint, almost undecipherable text. Fortunately I was able later, when investigation at Jerusalem had shown the inscription to be quite unknown, to place the stone itself in the museum of the Syrian Protestant College in Beirut.

From Banias we hastened through the Jaulan to Fik and Ka'at el-Ḥosn in order not to lose our visit to Gadara and Pella and yet reach Gerizim in time for the Samaritan Passover and Jerusalem for Easter. This we succeeded in accomplishing, with the exception of arriving in the Samaritan encampment on Gerizim the day after the feast. The swollen Yarmuk could only be crossed by the railroad bridge without our horses, but Gadara and Pella were visited, as well as Beisan, with its acropolis and ruins, Telasir and Tubas, Tell and Burj Far'a, with the neighboring 'Ainun, 'Askar, and Salim. The return journey to Jerusalem was hurried, but we were in season for Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Immediately after Easter I undertook a supplemental trip to Jericho, Baṭneh, Salt, Jerash, 'Araḡ el-Emir, 'Amman, Ḥesban, Madeba, and Mukaur, returning to Jericho by way of the Ḥammam ez-Zerḡa and the east shore of the Dead Sea. The

principal object of the trip apart from visiting the ruined cities of the Decapolis was to explore the site of Baṭneh, a probable location for Betonim of the Old Testament and "Bethany beyond Jordan" of the New, and to ascertain the basis for reports of remains of the Roman road between Calirrhoe and Jericho on the mountain shelf between the littoral and the Moabite plateau, north of the Ḥammam ez-Zerka. Tents had now become superfluous, but circumstances prevented Mr. Sverdrup from accompanying me, so that I had as my only companion, aside from our two muleteers, Dr. J. Cropper of Ramallah. Our journey was an adventurous one, particularly in the region of Mukaur and northward along the Dead Sea, but both objects were attained in the locating and photographing of important ruins at Baṭneh, and the tracing of the Roman road for almost the whole distance from Ḥammam ez-Zerka to Wadi Ḥamara, and again still farther north.

On my return to Jerusalem preparations were at once made for a second visit to Beirut and Sidon, partly for the sake of placing the inscription from Abil in safe-keeping, partly to accomplish the exploration of a cave in northern Galilee which gave evidence of habitation in the palaeolithic age. In connection with this I was able to pay a third visit to Ba'albek, and a second to Damascus. Mr. Sverdrup remained in Jerusalem, where he was to be joined during the summer months by Mr. Nelson of the Syrian Protestant College, the two continuing together their linguistic and archaeological studies, awaiting the arrival of Professor Lyon, my successor. On May 19, I sailed from Beirut, and devoted the remainder of the month to Constantinople and the peninsula of Greece.

I venture to append the following recommendations, which are in line with those of my predecessors :—

1. Permanent and adequate quarters are indispensable to the progress of the School. The present arrangement is temporary, and on account of the inflation of real estate values in Jerusalem is far less favorable than freehold ownership. Several properties likely to be in the market were inspected

and photographed, and if \$15,000 to \$20,000 could be obtained, our present foothold could be made permanent and very greatly enlarged and improved. The care-takers, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Smith, are trustworthy and qualified to keep the property in good condition during the unavoidable absences of the Director and School, but this also is a temporary expedient and should be superseded as soon as the second requirement can be met.

2. Continuity of the work of the School is aided by the opportunity now afforded to students to make their summer home in Jerusalem, where, on account of the high altitude (2500 feet), the heat is never oppressive. For the greater part of the field work this is by far the best season, and Jerusalem with its excellent libraries, museums, and other facilities unquestionably the best place. Nevertheless, for real continuity of work, and utilization of our noble opportunity, it is essential that the Committee be enabled to secure the services of a Permanent Director, competent to direct systematic exploration and excavation, whenever and wherever permission can be obtained.

3. The development of closer relations with the Syrian Protestant College at Beirut, and the German Evangelical Archaeological and the French Theological (St. Stephen's) Institutes at Jerusalem, will make sure and steady progress in the hands of a judicious Committee and a tactful Director; but it is also desirable to maintain a list of correspondents among missionaries and other residents at strategic points.

4. In material equipment the School is still but meagrely supplied. On account of the large expenses for house furnishing it did not seem justifiable to expend much more than the \$100, appropriated for "books and necessary expenses,"—nearly one-half this amount being required for subscriptions already pledged and for binding. In addition only seven new volumes and two maps were added to the library by purchase, and five bound volumes, a score of pamphlets, and two charts by gift. In apparatus there was added one new Berkefeld

Army Filter with extra cylinder, army canteen and sterilizers, a standard camera tripod, and minor articles, principally by purchase. I may venture, however, to urge as a specific acquisition, the opportunity for which is not likely long to remain open, the collection of ancient Palestinian pottery gathered for many years by Dr. Merrill, which it is even now difficult, if not impossible, to duplicate. The very alphabet of the modern excavator is the study of pottery, and it is a science which can only be studied in object lessons. The apparatus recommended by Professor Schmidt still remains to be supplied.

5. Attendance at the School has not been such as its great advantages give a right to expect. Besides the Thayer Fellow the only students of recent years have been such as could be reached personally by the Directors. Yet for the holders of the travelling fellowships bestowed by most of our theological seminaries on their graduates of highest rank, Palestine is at least as good a field as Germany in which to fulfil, for at least a part of the time, the conditions of the fellowship. Pending the establishment of fellowships specifically looking to study in Palestine, our attendance might well be increased by measures for acquainting such men with the possibilities and advantages of study in Jerusalem.

In closing, I desire to express my sense of obligation on behalf of the School to the many friends in Beirut, Sidon, and Jerusalem who labored for our welfare, most of all to Dr. Merrill and Mr. A. T. Gelat and to the President and Faculty at Beirut; also to Dr. Barton, ex-Director of the School, for the gift of his volumes, *Haverford Collection of Cuneiform Texts*, 1906, and *A Year's Wandering in Bible Lands*, 1906; to the French Département d'Instruction Publique for *tomes vi et vii des Mémoires publiées sous la direction de M. de Morgan*, including (vi) *Textes Elamites-Sémitiques* and (vii) *Recherches Archéologiques*; and to other societies and individuals for similar gifts not specifically acknowledged.

BENJAMIN W. BACON, *Director*.

YALE UNIVERSITY,  
September 28, 1906.